

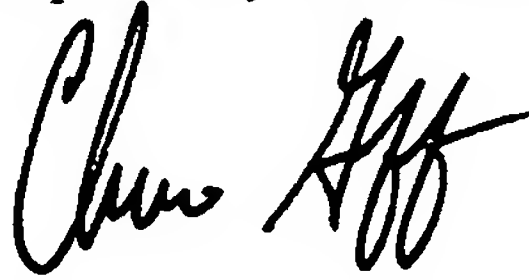
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the claim amendments noted above, prior to examination of the application being filed concurrently herewith.

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment A, claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 12-16, 19, 24, 27, 29-31, 38, 41-42, 45-47, 49, 51-52, 56, 59, 64, and 164 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 9-11, 17-18, 20-23, 25-26, 28, 32-37, 39-40, 43-44, 48, 50, 53-55, 57-58, 60-63, 65-163, and 165-259 have been canceled. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in one or more divisional applications during the pendency of this application.

It is believed that the filing fees are to be calculated based on the claims as presented herein. Accordingly, a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 is enclosed herewith. The Commissioner is however hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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*Enclosure